

It was not until a considerable time after the receipt of this formal authority that Marmont and Mortier ceased to make a vigorous resistance against the Allied army, for the suspension of arms was not agreed upon until four in the afternoon. It was not waited for by Joseph ; at a quarter past twelve — that is to say, immediately after he had addressed to Marmont the authority just alluded to — Joseph repaired to the Bois de Boulogne to regain the Versailles road, and from thence to proceed to Rambouillet. The precipitate flight of Joseph astonished only those who did not know him. I know for a fact that several officers attached to his staff were much dissatisfied at his alacrity on this occasion.

In these circumstances what was to be done but to save Paris, which there was no possibility of defending two hours longer.¹ Methinks I still see Marmont when, on the evening of the 30th of March, he returned from the field of battle to his hotel in the Rue de Paradis, where I was waiting for him, together with about twenty other persons, among whom were MM. Perregaux and Lafitte. When he entered he was scarcely recognizable : he had a beard of eight days' growth; the greatcoat which covered his uniform was in tatters, and he was blackened with powder from* head to foot. We considered what was best to be done, and all insisted on the necessity of signing a capitulation. The Marshal must recollect that the exclamation of every one about him was, "France must be saved." MM. Perregaux and Lafitte delivered their opinions in a very decided way, and it will readily be conceived how great was the influence of two men who were at the head of the financial world. They alleged that the general wish of the Parisians, which nobody had a better opportunity of knowing than themselves, was decidedly averse to a protracted conflict, and that France was tired of the yoke of Bonaparte. This last declaration gave a wider range to the business under consideration. The question was no longer confined to the

¹ Here Bourrienne follows the account given in the Memoirs of Marmont taken from the *National* of 8th August, 1844. See *Ragusa*, tome vi, pp. 351-350, and Marmont's own account (tome vi, pp. 240-251). Marmont, who had one arm

still in a sling from the wound received at Salamanca, and two fingers of the other hand injured, describes himself as having to charge at the head of a few men sword in hand.